

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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R 220845Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2554

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

UNCLAS LOURENCO MARQUES 0373

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, PGOV, PINS, ECON, ELAB, MZ

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF INTER-TERRITORIAL COORDINATION GIVES
PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: A) LOURENCO MARQUES A-85 OF MAY 17; B) LOURENCO
MARQUES 331; C) LOURENCO MARQUES 339; D) LOURENCO
MARQUES 351

1. DR. ANTONIO DE ALMEIDA SANTOS, NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER
OF INTER-TERRITORIAL COORDINATION, ARRIVED IN LOURENCO
MARQUES AT 1830 HOURS ON MAY 20, ACCOMPANIED BY LT. COL.
SOUSA BELCHIOR, WHO SERVED AS JSN DELEGATE TO OVERSEAS
MINISTRY, MAJOR HUGO DOS SANTOS AND DR. COSTA OLIVEIRA.

2. IN PRESS CONFERENCE ON MAY 21 IN LOURENCO MARQUES,
SANTOS PRESENTED HIS VIEWS ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS CONCERNING
MOZAMBIQUE, SOME OF WHICH ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

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A. LABOR - GOVERNMENT WILL SOON ISSUE LEGISLATION GOVERNING STRIKES AND CREATE "TEMPORARY INSTRUMENT" TO ARBITRATE BETWEEN WORKERS AND BUSINESSES. GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT WORKERS, LONG PAID SUBSISTENCE WAGES, NEED SALARY INCREASES. NONETHELESS, MANY LABOR DEMANDS BEING PRESENTED ARE EXCESSIVE (HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED STEVEDORES). WORKERS MUST UNDERSTAND UNCONTROLLED WAGE SPIRAL WILL BE NEUTRALIZED BY RESULTING INFLATION. UNLESS WORKERS ARE REASONABLE, ONLY ALTERNATIVE WILL BE FOR GOVERNMENT TO IMPOST COMPULSORY WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS.

B. FRELIMO - SAMORA MACHEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT MAY 20 THAT FRELIMO WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT WAS PROBABLY MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO START NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE FROM STRONG POSITION. SANTOS IS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT FRELIMO DOES NOT WANT WAR AND WILL AGREE TO NEGOTIATE CEASE FIRE.

C. PROLIFERATION OF PARTIES - WHILE NOT PROBLEM NOW, PROLIFERATION OF PARTIES COULD CREATE FUTURE DIFFICULTIES. COUNTRIES WITH MANY PARTIES ARE GENERALLY UNSTABLE. SANTOS FAVORS ATTITUDE OF DEMOCRATS OF MOZAMBIQUE, WHO REFUSED TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES AS POLITICAL PARTY BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT SMALL MINORITY OF MOZAMBIQUE POPULATION. HOWEVER, THEY, AS WELL AS NEWS MEDIA, PLAY USEFUL ROLE IN DEVELOPING POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF MOZAMBIQUE PEOPLE.

D. NEW GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE - NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF MOZAMBIQUE WILL BE APPOINTED NEXT WEEK. THEY WILL BE SELECTED ON BASIS OF COMPETENCE AND NOT RACIAL ORIGIN.

E. SUBSIDIES FOR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS - ALTHOUGH STRUCTURES MAY CHANGE, GOVERNMENT WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT RELIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

F. REFERENDUM - REFERENDUM FOR SELF-DETERMINATION WILL PROBABLY BE VARIATION OF ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE FORMULA. LITERACY CANNOT BE USED AS QUALIFYING FACTOR.

G. ECONOMIC MEASURES BEING IMPLEMENTED - GOVERNMENT WILL NATIONALIZE BANKS OF ISSUE IN OVERSEAS PROVINCES (BANCO UNCLASSIFIED

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NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO IN MOZAMBIQUE); TRANSFER HEADQUARTERS OF STATE, MIXED ENTERPRISES, OR "CONCESSIONARY" COMPANIES TO OVERSEAS PROVINCES (PRESUMABLY THOSE WITH LARGE INTERESTS THERE); ESTABLISH CONDITIONS TO MAKE INVESTMENTS IN OVERSEAS PROVINCES SECURE; AND STUDY PAYMENT OF WORLD PRICES FOR EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF OVERSEAS PROVINCES.

H. FREEDOM OF PRESS - MEASURES HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN

TO FREE MOZAMBICAN PRESS FROM REACTIONARY FORCES (NO DETAILS GIVEN).

I. ALLEGED DGS CRIMES - DGS AGENTS FOUND GUILTY OF CRIMES WILL BE PUNISHED. MILITARY HAS CONTROL OF "SANITIZED" DGS INTELLIGENCE ARM AND HAS TAKEN MEASURES TO PREVENT DGS AGENTS FROM LEAVING MOZAMBIQUE.
VAN OSS

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